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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/551,364	SIMONOFF, ADAM J.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Melvin H Pollack	2145	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _28 July 2004_.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-84_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-84_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on _17 April 2000_ is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☒ Other: _see attached office action._

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-84 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

2.   In the response to the last office action, the applicant changed the scope of the claims by adding clarifications of object transmission to all independent claims, in addition to the addition and modification of several dependent claims. As a result, a final amendment is necessitated even if the examiner provides a new art rejection. The examiner acknowledges that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

3.   In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "an existing client updates a new client") are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

4.   Applicant added to the claims that "when a new user logs in, an existing user transmits objects from the existing user to the new user." The added limitation does not expressly state that the existing user may not be a server, nor does it expressly state that the connection is direct and cannot go through the server, i.e. a peer-to-peer connection. Further, it is unclear which of the plural existing users performs the transmission, or how it is decided, and the specification fails to clarify this issue.

5.   That said, Aditham does in fact describe an embodiment of peer-to-peer messaging (col. 9, lines 20-25). Therefore, the rejection stands. Further, since the purpose of the 103 rejection

was to produce a combination of object types, and since the object types list has been moved to dependent claims, the independent claims will now be rejected as 102.

6.   Likewise, claim 12 does not contain the features provided on page 27, and thus will not be read as narrowly as the remarks imply.

7.   Regarding the issue of active hyperlinks, the hyperlink is by definition active. The examiner provides evidence of the hyperlink in claims 8 and new claim 78. (The independent claims no longer mention active hyperlinks.)

8.   In response to the claim 7 rejection, applicant has changed the limitations, necessitating a new rejection. The examiner is unclear regarding the issue of Smythe not disclosing the claimed filtering step, as claim 7 does not describe a claimed filtering step and as there has been no discussion regarding filtering steps in the claim 1 remarks.

9.   In response to applicant's argument that Raz (6,292,827) is nonanalogous art, it has been held that a prior art reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, in order to be relied upon as a basis for rejection of the claimed invention. See *In re Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 24 USPQ2d 1443 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, Raz is concerned with a presentation system (abstract) for data distribution and collaboration (summary), and more specifically to methods of improving client-server distributions. Therefore, it is analogous art.

10.   As for claims 31 et al., it is obvious to those of ordinary skill in the art that code for generating a filter is functionally equivalent to the generation of a filter, which Aditham teaches. As promised, a teaching on the equivalence is provided. *Structured Computer Organization:*

Second Edition by Andrew S. Tanenbaum teaches the functional equivalence between a metod

(algorithm) and the hardware and software embodiments (Section 1.4).

11.   In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references,

the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the

teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching,

suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge

generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5

USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir.

1992). In this case, Howell teaches a method (abstract) of controlling data access (summary)

within privilege-level storage and access (col. 4, lines 5-65). The applicant has failed to provide

evidence regarding a case where a "public session" person may see an "explicit" object, and

Howell teaches adequate controls away from the issue (col. 6, line 1 – col. 7, line 25).

12.   For these reasons, and the rejections below, the rejection is final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

13.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the
> subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

14.   Claims 1, 12 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as

the invention.

15.   Claim 1 recites the limitation "transmitting all generated ones of the objects" in claim 1.

There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. The new limitation states

that an existing user transmits objects to a new user, but it is unclear whether the prior

transmission is performed by said existing user, by a different existing user (i.e. that which

generates or modifies an object) or by a server or existing user acting as a server. The applicant

is advised to amend the claim to clarify this issue.

16.   Claim 1 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for

omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP

§ 2172.01. The omitted elements are: the method of establishing communication between a new

user and an existing user such that the existing user may transmit objects in a client-server or

peer-to-peer fashion, and the decision-making function regarding which existing user performs

the sending.

17.   Claim 12 recites the limitation "freeze the image" in claim 1. There is insufficient

antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 1 does not state an image, and it is

unclear as to whether the applicant means an object, a distribution, or the user's screen. Further,

the term user may apply to the new user, the existing user, one of the plurality of users, or the

server. Further, it is unclear as to the meaning and usage of the term "freeze the image." The

examiner suggests that added language from Page 27 may be useful in rectifying this issue.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

18.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed
> in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for
> patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an
> international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this
> subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United
> States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

19.   Claims 1-5, 13, 14, 20-22, 25, 27-30, 34-37, 48-50, 55-58, 63, 64, 66-68, 72, 74-77 are

rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aditham et al. (6,378,001).

20.   For claim 1, Aditham teaches a method (see abstract) facilitating collaboration (col. 1,

lines 15-20) between a plurality of users (col. 1, lines 20-25) of incompatible hardware and/or

operating systems (Fig. 2 & 3, and col. 3, line 65 – col. 4, line 30), comprising:

    a.   Selectively generating (col. 2, lines 32-33) objects (col. 5, lines 47-48) which are

    displayable at user-selected locations (Fig. 10) on a White Board screen of one of the

    users (col. 2, lines 20-23);

    b.   Transmitting all generated ones of the objects for selective distributions to each of

    the other users (col. 2, lines 20-25); and

    c.   Filtering the objects to thereby permit selective retransmission of the objects to

    respective ones of the other users (col. 2, lines 25-30); and

    d.   Wherein, when a new user logs in, an existing user transmits objects from the

    existing user to the new user to generate objects on the White Board screen of the new

    user (col. 9, lines 20-25).

21.   As for claim 2, Aditham teaches that one of the respective ones of the other users

comprises the new user (col. 2, lines 25-30).

22.   As for claims 3-5, Aditham teaches that the users have predetermined privilege level, and

that users receive some of the objects if they have the level (col. 5, lines 19-57). During a

"public" session, in which all of the users claim an identical privilege level, the filtering step is

bypassed (col. 5, lines 15-35).

23.   Claims 13 and 14 are drawn to the limitations in claims 1 and 2, respectively. Claim 13

adds the limitation of a server collecting objects from a client for retransmission to other clients,

which Aditham also shows (Fig. 3). Therefore, since claims 1 and 2 are rejected, claims 13 and

14 are also rejected for the reasons above.

24.   As for claim 20, Aditham teaches that the generated object comprises an object sequence,

and wherein each member of the object sequence is different than all other members of the object

sequence (Fig. 6).

25.   Claim 21 is drawn to the limitations in claim 13. Claim 21 adds several limiations that

Aditham also teaches: the use of a GUI (col. 1, lines 40-50 and col. 4, lines 56-60), the method of

logging into a session (col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 2) to receive a unique ID (col. 4, lines 34-36),

and the server providing a command to update a computer that just joins in (col. 2, lines 24-26).

Therefore, since claim 13 is rejected, claim 21 is also rejected for the reasons above.

26.   As for claim 22, Aditham teaches that the network is a LAN (col. 3, lines 60-61).

27.   Claim 25 is drawn to a hardware system that implements the method drawn in claims 13

and 3. It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the

underlying method. Therefore, since claims 13 and 3 are rejected, claim 25 is also rejected for

the reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence has been included above.

28.   Claims 27 and 28 are drawn to the limitations in claim 4. Therefore, since claim 4 is

rejected, claims 27 and 28 are also rejected for the reasons above.

29.   Claims 29 and 30 are drawn to the limitations in claims 6 and 5, respectively. Therefore,

since claims 5 and 6 are rejected, claims 29 and 30 are also rejected for the reasons above.

30.   Claims 34 and 35 are drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in

claim 21. It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to

the underlying method. Therefore, since claim 21 is rejected, claims 34 and 35 are also rejected

for the reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence has been included

above.

31.   Claim 36 is drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in claim 27.

It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the

underlying method. Therefore, since claim 27 is rejected, claim 36 is also rejected for the

reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence has been included above.

32.   Claim 37 drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in claims 20 and

29. It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the

underlying method. Therefore, since claims 20 and 29 are rejected, claim 37 is also rejected for

the reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence has been included above.

33.   Claims 48 and 49 are drawn to the limitations in claim 34. Therefore, since claim 34 is

rejected, claims 48 and 49 are also rejected for the reasons above.

34.   Claim 50 is drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in claim 20.

It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the

underlying method. Therefore, since claim 20 is rejected, claim 50 is also rejected for the

reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence has been included above.

35.   Claims 55-58 are drawn to the limitations in claims 2, 1, 3, and 4, respectively.

Therefore, since claims 1-4 are rejected, claims 55-58 are also rejected for the reasons above.

36.   Claim 63 is drawn to the limitations in claims 48 and 56. Therefore, since claims 48 and

56 are rejected, claim 63 is also rejected for the reasons above.

37.   Claims 64 and 66-68 are drawn to the limitations in claims 55 and 20-22, respectively.

Therefore, since claims 55 and 20-22 are rejected, claims 64 and 66-68 are also rejected for the

reasons above.

38.   Claims 72 and 74-77 are drawn to the limitations in claims 25 and 27-30, respectively.

Therefore, since claims 25 and 27-30 are rejected, claims 72 and 74-77 are also rejected for the

reasons above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

39.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

40.   Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aditham as

applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kumar et al. (6,342,906).

41.   For claim 6, Aditham does not expressly disclose that the objects comprise a multimedia

presentation. Kumar teaches a method (abstract) of multimedia collaboration (col. 1, line 1 –

col. 2, line 60) that allow for such capabilities (col. 3, line 40 – col. 4, line 35). At the time the

invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used Kumar's presentation

system in order to improve real-time collaboration (col. 1, lines 30-45).

42.   Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aditham as

applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Smythe et al. (6,418,214).

43.   For claim 7, Aditham shows that a client can log on and off (Fig. 10, #46 and #52), but

does not expressly disclose a server initiated shut down of at least one of the White board clients

responsive to a received command signal. Smythe teaches a method (abstract) of performing

network-based conferencing (col. 1, line 1 – col. 3, line 48) in which the server disconnects from

one of the White Board clients (col. 10, lines 55-60). At the time the invention was made, one of

ordinary skill in the art would have added the remote shut down method of Smythe to the

Aditham system in order to more efficiently de-register and clean up a conference (col. 10, lines

55-60).

44.   Claims 8-12, 15-19, 23, 24, 38-40, 45-47, 51-54, 60-62, 69, 70 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aditham as applied to claims 1, 13, 21, 34, 48 above,

and further in view of England (6,144,991).

45.   For claim 8, Aditham does not expressly disclose that the objects comprise active

hyperlinks, and wherein operating a first active hyperlink on a first White Board client causes

selected other ones of the White Board clients to display the file specified by the URL associated

with the first active hyperlink. England teaches many of the limitations in claim 1 (abstract),

including the development of whiteboards and other collaborative tools in the web environment

(col. 5, lines 35-55) so that one computer may develop objects and transmit them to other

computers (col. 8, lines 10-30) and to retransmit them to computers joining in (col. 29, lines 38-

58). England also teaches that the objects comprise active hyperlinks (Fig. 11, #1103) and that

the operation of a first active hyperlink on a first White Board client causes selected other ones

of the White Board clients to display the file specified by the URL associated with the first active

hyperlink (col. 10, lines 39-52). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the

art would have given Aditham this form of collaborative method in order to allow collaboration

relationships such as between an expert and a student (col. 6, lines 38-50).

46.   For claims 9-11, Aditham teaches the storage of the session (col. 1, lines 50-60), but does

not disclose reconstruction or storage methods. England teaches that the White Board session

may be saved in a session file and reconstructed from said file for new users (col. 8, lines 40-53,

and col. 22, lines 15-45). One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize a web page as a

possible storage format, especially for web-based systems. At the time the invention was made,

one of ordinary skill in the art would have used England to flesh out the implementation,

especially in a web environment.

47.   For claim 12, Aditham does not expressly disclose permitting a user to freeze the image

on its White Board screen from updating during the freeze. England teaches this limitation (col.

22, lines 30-35). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have

added a freeze function to Aditham to allow the user to preview options (col. 21, lines 35-45).

48.   Claims 15-19 are drawn to the limitations in claims 9-12. Therefore, since claims 9-12

are rejected, claims 15-19 are also rejected for the reasons above.

49.   For claims 23 and 24, Aditham teaches that the server can distribute programs over the

web (col. 13, lines 25-30) and the use of JAVA applets to develop the White Board and

communication (col. 4, lines 40-50 and col. 7, line 40 – col. 8, line 22), but does not disclose the

usage of web servers and browsers. England goes further to show the use of web browsers (Fig.

3) and a web server that serves web pages (col. 2, lines 30-40). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added web server/browser systems to allow collaborators to simultaneously navigate the web (col. 6, lines 5-20).

50.   Claims 38, 39, 40 and 45 are drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in claims 17, 16, 17, and 9, respectively. It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the underlying method. Therefore, since claims 9, 16, and 17 are rejected, claims 38-40 and 45 are also rejected for the reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence has been included above.

51.   As for claims 46 and 47, Aditham does not expressly disclose instantiating a chat function or replaying chat communications. England teaches the use of a chat function and storage of the conversation (Fig. 9, #904-912), which can be replayed later (col. 8, lines 40-53, and col. 22, lines 15-45). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added a chat feature to Aditham so that users could improve their real-time communication during collaboration products (col. 11, lines 34-50).

52.   Claims 51 and 52 are drawn to the limitations in claims 38 and 40, respectively. Therefore, since claims 38 and 40 are rejected, claims 51 and 52 are also rejected for the reasons above.

53.   Claim 53 is drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in claim 9. It is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the underlying method. Therefore, since claim 9 is rejected, claim 53 is also rejected for the reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional equivalence has been included above.

54.   Claim 54 is drawn to the limitations in claim 45. Therefore, since claim 45 is rejected,

claim 54 is also rejected for the reasons above.

55.   Claims 60-62 are drawn to the limitations in claims 10-12, respectively. Therefore, since

claims 10-12 are rejected, claims 60-62 are also rejected for the reasons above.

56.   Claims 69 and 70 are drawn to the limitations in claims 23 and 24. Therefore, since

claims 23 and 24 are rejected, claims 69 and 70 are also rejected for the reasons above.

57.   Claims 26, 59, 65, 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Aditham as applied to claims 25, 56, 63, 72 above, and further in view of Raz (6,292,827).

58.   For claim 26, Aditham does not disclose a secondary server computer, wherein all of the

client computers disconnect form the primary server computer and reconnect to the secondary

server computer when the primary server computer is unavailable. Raz teaches a method

(abstract) of developing and managing an information network and presentation system (col. 1,

line 1 – col. 2, line 52) and further teaches the use of multiple servers for the purpose of

redundancy and fault tolerance (i.e. if one server goes down, the others take over) (col. 7, lines

17-20). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added a

second server to Aditham in order to perform security and fault tolerance features (col. 7, lines

20-25).

59.   For claim 59, Aditham does not expressly disclose storing data representative of the

White Board session as a JPEG image. Raz teaches using JPEG to store the data (col. 11, lines

5-22). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have added

JPEG storage to Aditham in order to compress the data (col. 11, lines 5-22).

60.   Claim 65 is drawn to the limitations in claim 59. Therefore, since claim 59 is rejected,

claim 65 is also rejected for the reasons above.

61.   Claim 73 is drawn to the limitations in claim 26. Therefore, since claim 26 is rejected,

claim 73 is also rejected for the reasons above.

62.   Claim 71 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aditham and

England as applied to claims 67, 70 above, and further in view of Raz.

63.   For claim 71, Aditham teaches plug-in style programs (Figs 3 and 5, #28), but does not

expressly disclose that the White Board client applet instantiates a plug-in conforming to a

predetermined application programming interface (API). England likewise does not expressly

disclose these limitations. Raz teaches that the client applet instantiates a plug-in (col. 10, lines

36-49 and col. 12, lines 5-35) conforming to a predetermined application programming interface

(API) (col. 10, line 50 – col. 11, line 3 and col. 12, lines 51 – 61). At the time the invention was

made, one of ordinary skill in the art would have used the information from Raz to flesh out

Aditham's agents, which act like plug-in APIs, and thus take better advantage of England's web

environment.

64.   Claims 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aditham as

applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Jacobs' WWW Conference Article.

65.   Claim 31 is drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in claim 1. It

is well known in the art that a system implementation is functionally equivalent to the underlying

method. Therefore, since claim 1 is rejected, claim 31 is also rejected for the reasons above. A

teaching that shows the functional equivalence has been included above.

66.   For claim 31, Aditham does not expressly disclose how the White Board generates

objects, or the GUI used to develop said objects. Jacobs teaches a method (abstract) of

developing whiteboard presentations (Introduction) in which a whiteboard contains many object

tools including placement tools for images, freehand drawings, text, etc. (Fig. 5). At the time

the invention was made, one of the ordinary skill in the art would have used the Jacobs GUI in

Aditham to more easily develop the objects (P. 6, Section 3.2.2).

67.   Claims 32 and 33 are drawn to a software system that implements the method drawn in

claims 4 and 3, respectively. It is well known in the art that a system implementation is

functionally equivalent to the underlying method. Therefore, since claims 4 and 3 are rejected,

claims 32 and 33 are also rejected for the reasons above. A teaching that shows the functional

equivalence has been included above.

68.   Claims 41-44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aditham

and England as applied to claim 39 above, and further in view of Howell et al. (5,276,901).

69.   For claims 41-44, Aditham does not expressly disclose the methods of storing

information to multiple storage levels. Howell teaches a method (abstract) of performing access

controls to information of multiple privilege levels (col. 1, line 1 – col. 2, line 55). Howell also

teaches the storage of information at a privilege level of the user under various methods

(abstract, Fig. 4, col. 1, lines 15-22, col. 2, lines 18-55). At the time the invention was made, one

of ordinary skill in the art would have used Howell to determine the methods of privilege storage

in Aditham (col. 4, lines 5-65).

70.   Claims 78-80, 82-84 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Aditham as applied to claims 1-3, 13, 56, 63 above, and further in view of Kumar and Jawahar et

al. (6,298,356).

71.   For claim 78, Aditham does not expressly disclose what the shared objects are, beyond

the generic expression that they are information shared by various users for the purpose of

collaboration. Several examples are given, such as a spreadsheet (see above) or a database

record (col. 1, lines 20-40), but there is no list of all the possible objects. However, the

applicant's list of objects are all well-known in the art as methods of imparting information,

consisting of generic multimedia data, text, HTML and hyperlinks, active track objects, freehand

drawings and other images, and 3D images. The decision as to the format of the object is a

design choice, and the choosing of any particular object type would not destroy the reference.

72.   Kumar teaches that the shared object can be of one or more types of the list given by the

applicant (col. 3, lines 45-52). Kumar also teaches many of the limitations in claim 1 (abstract,

Fig. 5, col. 1, lines 5-10). At the time the invention was made, one of ordinary skill in the art

would have known that the shared objects could be any of the above types because of the reasons

above, their ubiquitous presence throughout the body of art, and in order to allow a broad array

of possible collaborative applications (col. 2, lines 15-17).

73.   Jawahar also teaches collaboration (see abstract) with a focus on web page collaboration,

including hyperlinks (col. 2, lines 5-15 and 35-45). At the time the invention was made, one of

ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the need to modify web pages and hyperlink

objects (see above) and to allow better testing of web pages (col. 2, lines 1-5).

74.   Claims 79, 80, and 82-84 are drawn to the limitations in claim 78. Therefore, since claim

78 is rejected, claims 79, 80, and 82-84 are also rejected for the reasons above.

75.   Claim 81 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aditham and

England as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Kumar and Jawahar et al.

(6,298,356) as applied to claim 78 above.

76.   Claim 81 is drawn to the limitations in claim 78. Therefore, since claim 78 is rejected,

claim 81 is also rejected for the reasons above.

Conclusion

77.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure.

78.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this

Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

      A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this
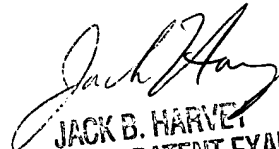
final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Melvin H Pollack whose telephone number is (571) 272-3887.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Jack Harvey can be reached on (571) 272-3896. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JACK B. HARVEY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

MHP
18 November 2004